



Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2023 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Attendees: Bryan, Cara, Ian, Paul, Jeannet, Terry, Mike, Isaac, Darci, Scottie, JJ, Casey

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Chair Cara Heinze.

1.1. Meeting Agenda

Mike made a motion to approve the meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ian. The motion passed unanimously.

1.2. Meeting Minutes

Bryan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ian. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Old Business

2.1. Parks Master Plan: Site Recommendations Review

Darci stated that she was able to make the meeting but was only able to attend virtually. This discussion was previewed last meeting when we reviewed the draft document, and tonight the goal is to get your feedback on the site recommendations for each park in Scappoose. Darci stated that we are looking to understand what looks right, what might not be sited correctly, or what should be considered for removal from the plan. Darci asked for initial feedback on the introduction to the topic.

JJ stated that the information about the charging stations at Heritage needed updated. Darci stated that she had heard that from staff as well.

Mike asked if the group could go through the proposals one park at a time. Darci stated yes. Jeannet asked if there were any budget numbers attached to the proposals. Darci stated that that happens in the next few stages of the process; the purpose of this exercise is to understand what the perfect world vision for each park is. This does not commit to building anything or doing anything but helps us understand the ideal situation.

Darci briefly reviewed the system map; this map shows areas that are underserved currently. This map shows areas that are under parked, the recommendation would be to look for ways to develop the system in those areas. The purpose is to serve the residents in those areas, so the addition would be something like a neighborhood park.

Mike stated that Creekview is a great property, but it he remembers that it is in the floodplain, and he remembers that the residents were not keen on development. Jeannet asked if there were going to be proposals about when different improvements are moved. Jeannet also asked if the consultants were going to be looking at new funding mechanisms. Darci answered yes, and yes. Jeannet asked about how ADA was going to be integrated. Darci answered by asking the Committee to identify parks that could use a look at ADA accessibility. Darci stated that this didn't have to happen tonight, but that that is an important question. Cara stated that Heritage



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seems to be well covered, but there are not ADA playgrounds there, and stated that some parks are part the way there, but not all the way there. Cara stated that perhaps the discussion should be, how ADA is looked at. Do the members want one park that has all the ADA accessibility, including play structures, or all the parks with some ADA facilities at each, but not necessarily everything. JJ stated that she understands about accessibility and thinks that looking at the community need for ADA amenities should be part of the discussion. JJ stated that Heritage Park would be a good park to focus on since the Library and other public spaces are there it would be a good candidate for a hard look. Ian stated that for every park we should be looking at each park as we develop, otherwise we are going backwards, not forwards. Darci stated that this is included in our goals, policies, and vision, to look at accessibility of each park as we develop. Darci stated that the committee is leaping ahead and getting to the future discussion about limited funds to develop and how to prioritize these dollars.

Paul stated that the budget should not drive the Master Plan, priorities should. He stated that there are grants for things like bike racks and ADA improvements. The priority should be on top, and funding should come after to try and make those goals reality. Isaac stated that prioritization in the process does come before budget for that reason.

Darci stated that this brings us full circle, and that the committee could start by looking at Heritage on page 5 of the document. Darci reviewed the recommendations, and asked if the list looks right, or, how the committee might change the recommendation.

Mike stated that he wants to make sure that the recommendations are the right ones, before talking about priority. Cara stated that the exercise tonight is exactly that; looking at each recommendation and seeing if they are right or wrong. JJ stated that she thinks that an important aspect is implementable and making sure there are people to make things happen.

Heritage Feedback:

Cara stated she did not like the pump track, did like the berm between the park and the highway, and did like the active and passive interactive elements. Ian stated that Heritage should be like the City Square. He thinks it needs more plaza space, and it would be very cool to have outdoor interactive activities integrated in that. He also stated that power hookups would be great so that food carts could come in and wants to make sure that the space is maximized. JJ stated that there are many great placements for power outlets in relation to what is there now. Mike stated that the park was recently developed, and there is not a lot of open space, so preserving that space so events could still happen there, but it would be nice to see more picnic tables. JJ seconded the importance of the picnic tables. Ian stated that he would like to add regarding the outdoor space, he would like to look at building in flexibility for outdoor events, so that large outdoor events could happen on the site. JJ stated that people mean vehicles, and vehicles need parking that doesn't impact the neighborhood. Paul stated that there will be parking along the street just north of City Hall that could help with that.

Veterans Park

Darci stated that the green spaces are being used already for soccer and other activities, and that this park green spaces play an important role in the community. Paul stated that there is not that much space for disc golf; you might get three holes, which would be lacking. Those areas are multiuse spaces, and that would negatively impact other activities. Cara asked if they



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want to consider pickleball at Veterans. JJ stated the issue with pickleball is noise, and that perhaps walling it in would help with noise. Terry stated he thought that there were three options for development at Grabhorn, and that the Middle School might be a good place for Pickleball. Cara stated that it might be hard to put pickleball at the Middle School. Terry stated that if that is the case, there doesn't seem to be a good place in the current parks system. Casey stated that you could stated that there is a desire to add pickleball to the parks system, and this would probably be enough to qualify for grants. Mayor Backus stated that the School District is almost done with their facility plan, and that pickleball might be considered. Paul stated he would like to put it in the plan, so it does not get forgotten. Ian stated that Veterans is the park for horseshoes, pickleball, etc. This is the park for activities. Cara stated that it would be great to see a bridge between Veterans and Concomly. Ian asked if there has been consideration of adding additional stormwater retention capacity. Isaac stated that Scappoose Bay Watershed Council has been working on that; if the question is about adding more additional capacity intentionally during development of parks beyond what SBWC is doing, then the answer is not through the current set of exercises during the Parks Master Plan. Ian stated that adding additional flood capacity should be considered as part of the plan. Paul stated that regarding paving the overflow parking lot, he would prefer that not be paved as it seems like a waste of dollars. Isaac stated that from the City perspective, from what he understands, if that area is designated as parking, it will have to be paved. Scottie stated that they agree with additional flood capacity is important and would be very beneficial.

Grabhorn

Cara asked if this is the right time to talk about Grabhorn. Darci stated that with the lack of specificity around the particular development, a conversation could be had about the large picture of the park, the recommendations are broad, but implicate a more active recreation park, including trails. Mike stated if its an either/or with sports fields or disc golf, he feels that fields are the right choice. Terry seconded Mikes comment about fields and stated that it would be good to test out the appetite for pickleball. Cara stated that parallel to the master plan, she wants to set a time to have a discussion about Grabhorn with Dave Sukau, to review the site plans. Paul stated that Grabhorn is not a good place for disc golf. He also stated that one recommendation for Grabhorn is to move the parking towards the road, and second, the fields will be used so much that multiuse fields wouldn't be a great idea.

Concomly

Ian mentioned horseshoes would be great here earlier in the night Mike stated that the area in the floodplain would be a good space for some sort of activity like horseshoes or volleyball. Cara likes the idea of adding the words natural play/open ended play to the recommendations. Ian stated this would be a great place for a community garden/orchard. Cara agreed. Paul stated the original plan for Concomly included a bridge and asked what the barriers to that were. Mike stated that a bridge like that could cost \$300,000 to \$400,000. Casey stated that pricing has gone way up in recent years. Cara stated that she would like to add a bridge to the list. Mike stated it would be nice to consider connection along Seely Lane.

Miller

Cara reiterated that covering the basketball courts would be good and stated that it would not be a good place for a garden/orchard. Ian stated covered space, the same as the court, or another area, three could be another dog park on the site. Cara responded that the back field is



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used heavily for soccer. Darci asked if soccer fields were elsewhere, is there anything negative about having a dog park there. Cara stated that it gets muddy in the winter, and it could be too small. Ian suggested that this could be an interesting place for a pump track because of the proximity to Crown Z. Cara stated that it is used for so many other things she feels a pump track would make the park less useable. Ian stated that it is a very flexible space as it is, and that he liked the idea of a hammock garden, but should be integrated into other programming as people are not very likely to bring their hammock and hang out for a few hours. Cara stated she did not like the long table for the area, and preferred a covered area. Ian stated that he like the large table, and something like that could increase the use of the area for birthday parties. Darci asked if adding another basketball court here would be a good idea? Cara stated that she was not in favor for that. Darci stated that this is one of the few places to add another full-sized court, and that the community has been very clear about the want to add a second full sized court.

Creekview

Cara mentioned that the hill at Creekview is a very popular sledding hill. Ian stated that this park will hold more value if/when South Scappoose Creek Trail is built as a resting spot.

Cara asked about looking at the proposed parks. Darci stated perhaps not. These parks are aspirational/opportunistic and would be places to look at placing amenities that are not sited in the final plan, or a unique opportunity presents itself.

Trtek Trailhead/Crown Z

Paul stated that the portion about adding better pedestrian connection west from Trtek is important. Ian stated he would like to see some covered areas along the trail, and access to drinking water along the trail. Casey mentioned EV Bike charging stations.

Proposed Scappoose Creek Trail

Cara stated that the recommendations are consistent with what they want to see along trails.

Chapman Landing

JJ wanted to add fishing access. Casey stated that there is grant money for accessible fishing piers. Ian asked about how much and what type of access to water the group is talking about. Is it a ramp and dock, a hardened edge, or other. Mike stated that rehabilitating the old crane platform could make a very neat viewing area.

Commerce Drive

The Committee wanted to remove disc golf and a dog park from the recommendation. JJ and Cara suggested partnering with the Audubon on that property. Ian asked about a pump track there. Casey stated that there could be right of way along the Crown Z that could be used for a track. Cara asked about adding that to the Crown Z recommendations. Cara stated that knowing all that, leaving Commerce Drive nature space is the right move.

Darci stated that as of now, there is no place identified for an additional dog park or disc golf. Paul suggested a disc golf course at Vista, and a mini course at Veterans.



Vista Park

Mike stated that parking is an issue at the site. Paul stated that the last Master Plan identified acquiring some land to expand Vista and add parking down by Apple Valley. Cara wanted to add enhancing access to the property, potentially through acquiring property. The committee liked the idea of making Vista a more nature trail area, rather than a bike only area. JJ asked about camping opportunity. Mike stated that he is nervous about camping in that area. Casey stated that there are some difficulties with camping, including on-site hosts and other things, and he thinks that would not be a good site for that. The committee agreed with Mike and Casey. Cara stated that disc golf was to be included here as well. Ian thought that it would be a good place for mountain biking, skills course, and pump track, and the property is large enough to incorporate many of these things, and it should be an option. The Committee agreed to keep these in the wording.

Casey stated that the Fire District Property could be a City/County/Fire District partnership. There is a big focus on the other side of CZ Highway, and the County could really use the City's help with the undertaking. Casey sees both sides of the Highway as being important and connected.

PUD Substation

The committee liked the idea of siting a dog park here, instead of a small neighborhood park.

2.2. Level of Service

Paul stated that the average Level of Service (LOS) is between 9 and 10 acres per thousand, and he would like to see the LOS in the Master Plan closer to this number. Cara stated that a tiered approach to this might be a good way to get the reality of the situation, while adding the aspirational goals. Darci agreed with the tiered plan, and stated that the LOS and everything else has to be brought together, and a difficulty is that setting an aspirational level of service can create expectations that do not fit reality, which is where the tiered approach comes in. Future discussions will take place about prioritization and funding to make these goals reality. The consultants will be setting up discussions about this at the ATM.

Paul stated that questions at these events tend to scare people as they get concerned about their taxes going up because questions are phrased in ways that implicate that these things will cost more money. He stated that these are fear factors, and that he would prefer to see discussions without the pressure of cost. Darci stated that she appreciates that, and that the consultants will be bringing information about the current state of the budget. She doesn't want it to create fear, but that she's not sure how to avoid that conversation. Mike stated that the reality of the finances at the City is very stressed, and a lot of the stuff in the plan are aspirational and need funded by grants or alternative funding sources. Ian stated that LOS is a metric to look at to see how your open spaces serve your community. Ian stated that while on the low end, they do a good job of serving the community; he stated he feels there are good rationales to talk about reality and aspirations. There could be phrasing to create an avenue for both.

Paul said that the level of service drives amenities. In 1998 a softball field was not included, so it never happened. When it was added, a softball field happened. He stated that if your LOS in your plan is below average it will never happen. The discussion is about providing the future



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generations with the right system, and the conversation about LOS is very important in this regard. Cara stated she would like to see information on funding to see how this would be impacted. JJ stated that a parks and rec district is how these things happen, and that is how money is raised for these types of improvements. Mike stated that the improvements in the last few years have been great, and that you have to walk before you can run.

Darci stated that the plan is for her to come back to the Committee in May with information from the Town Meeting. Cara asked about the inclusion of a recreation center in the plan, and if it needs to be included in the site recommendations. Darci stated that there is information showing that the community wants one, and there is information that in terms of funding it, it would require a much larger population base to make it a reality. Paul stated that it should be in the plan as an aspiration to increase conversation and focus on this issue. Cara agreed.

3. New Business

3.1. Earth Day: Cara stated that there will be a table at the Annual Town Meeting to market Earth Day. There will be goody bags, free food, swag from the sponsors, a giveaway of an Electric Bike, and more! The Charging Stations will be open, which is very exciting.

4. Announcements and General Discussion

4.1. Next Meetings

- April 20, 2023
- May 18, 2023
- June 15, 2023

Meeting Adjourned at 08:38 pm.

For questions about these minutes, contact Isaac Butman, 503.543.7184 ibutman@cityofscappoose.org
The EDC conducts its meetings in an ADA accessible room. If special accommodations are needed, please contact City Recorder Susan Reeves at 503.543.7146, ext. 224 TTY 503.378.5938